

## **Tougaloo University, Tougaloo, Miss.**

**Rev. Frank G. Woodworth, President**

**W**HEN the Mississippi Constitution of 1868 made provision for the establishment of a system of public schools, the American Missionary Association (Congregational) had four primary, eight graded and two normal schools for Freedmen in the state, all of them day schools.

The association decided that with the incoming of the free schools much of this work would be unnecessary and that it would be wise to establish one strong boarding school for teacher-training and industrial work. The property of Gen. Geo. C. McKee, of the Union Army, consisting of a "mansion" and five hundred acres of land, about seven miles north of Jackson, Miss., was purchased and became the nucleus of Tougaloo University. "Tougaloo" being taken from the name of the railway station, "Tougaloo Normal and Manual Training School" was opened in 1869, by Mr. H. S. Beals, with Rev. Ebenezer Tucker as principal. In 1871 the school was made one of the State normal schools, and an annual appropriation of \$2,500 was made, and a Board of Trustees was appointed to work with the American Missionary Association. This proved to be an unsatisfactory arrangement and the aid of the State was withdrawn in 1877. Two years later, the State again adopted Tougaloo as a normal school, and appointed a Board of Visitors, an arrangement which proved satisfactory, and was continued until 1890, when the new Constitution of Mississippi forbade the appropriation of money to any institutions under denominational direction.

### **The Equipment and Workers of Tougaloo**

Under the direction of the American Missionary Association, Tougaloo University has thirteen buildings of good size, fairly equipped industrial buildings, and a plant of more than five hundred acres with fair facilities for industrial work. It is supported by and under the control of the American Missionary Association. It has at present no endowment. The Slater Fund gives annually \$3,500 for salaries of the teachers in the industrial department.

Rev. Frank G. Woodworth, who, at the time of his appointment, was a New England Congregational pastor, has been president of Tougaloo since 1887. There were 27 teachers and

502 students enrolled in 1908. The annual expenses are \$22,000. In 1907 the American Missionary Association contributed \$13,500 of this amount; the Slater Fund, \$3,500, and the balance was secured from individual contributions.

### **Thorough Instruction in Essentials**

The aim of Tougaloo in the industrial department is to give thorough instruction in the essentials of those industries which are most practical in a state almost purely agricultural.

Beginning in the primary school there has been instruction in simple sewing and knife work. Each boy passing through the grammar school is taught in carpentry, iron and steel forging, masonry and mechanical drawing. Each girl has needlework and cooking. All the boys and girls devote an hour and a half daily to these studies as regularly as to arithmetic or grammar. Freehand drawing is taught in all grades. The result of this industrial training is manifest in hundreds of homes. Those who show special aptitude in any of the industries are allowed to devote a double period to these studies. This gives opportunity for good trade instruction.

In the normal and academy courses are included architectural drawing, advanced work in wood, iron and steel, dress making, millinery, practical housekeeping and nurse training. The study of practical housekeeping began in 1887, in a building known from its original use as the "Slave Pen." This, it is claimed, was the beginning of this branch of study "in any of the schools."

### **Practical Farm Operations**

There has been a notable increase in the attention paid to agriculture in recent years. Practical farm operations have been steadily carried on, and the plantation now produces nearly all the meat, milk and vegetables for the boarding department of more than two hundred, in addition to what is shipped to market. In addition to the field work, there is schoolroom work in agriculture.

While the industrial work is brought to a high standard, there has been a constant raising of the standard of academic work. Academy students are expected to become competent to teach the industries they pursue, and instruction is shaped to this end. The college department was begun in 1897. A Bible department for the training of preachers has sent out some leaders of marked efficiency.